

No. 877,048.

PATENTED JAN. 21, 1908.

E. A. CLARK.  
WASHBOARD.  
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 3, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

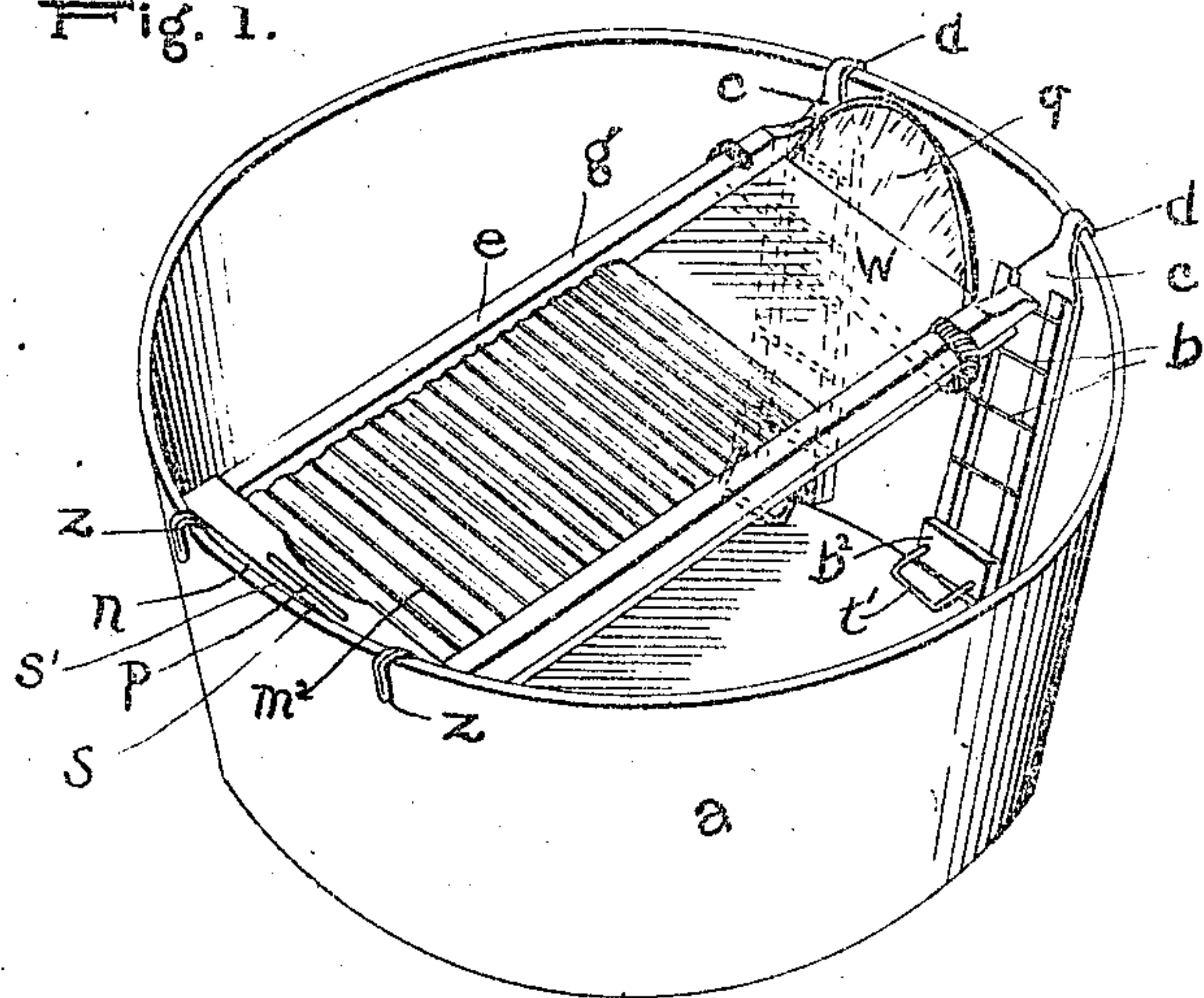


Fig. 2.

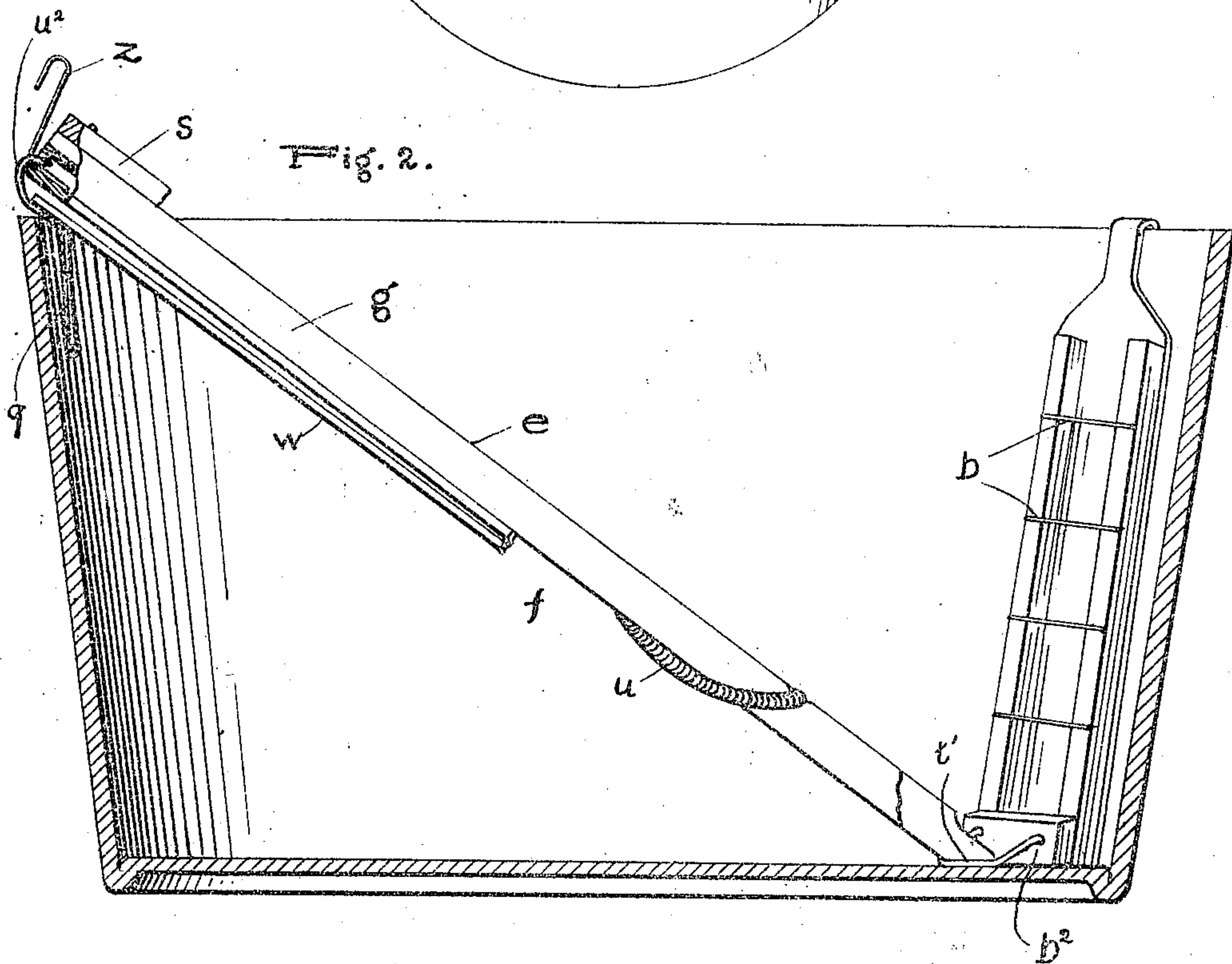
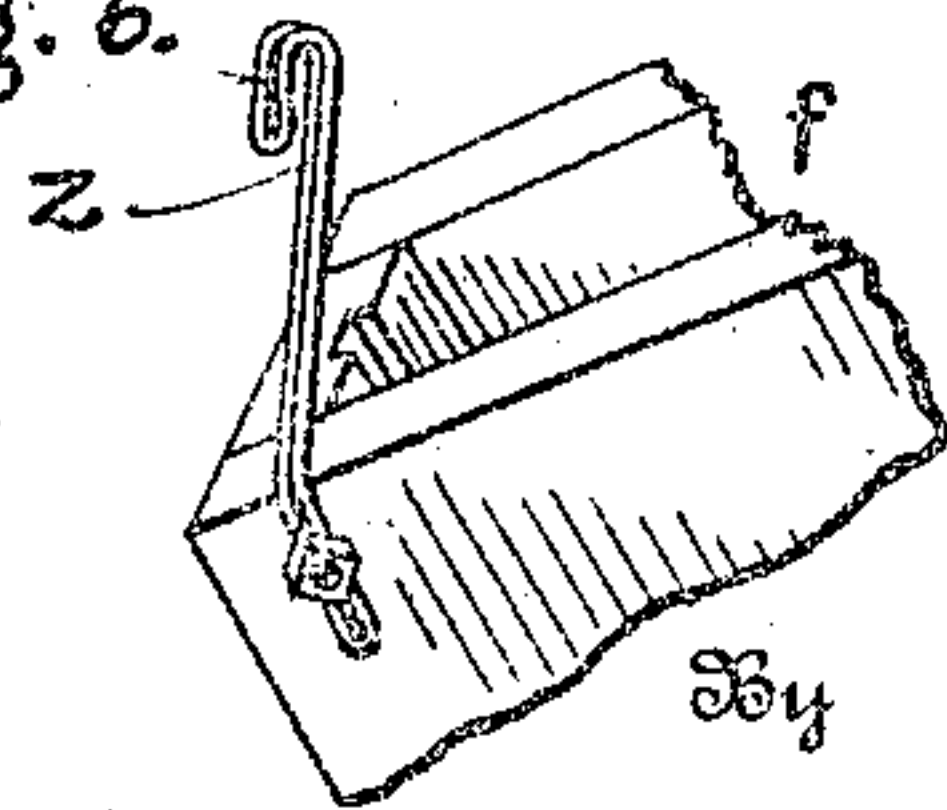


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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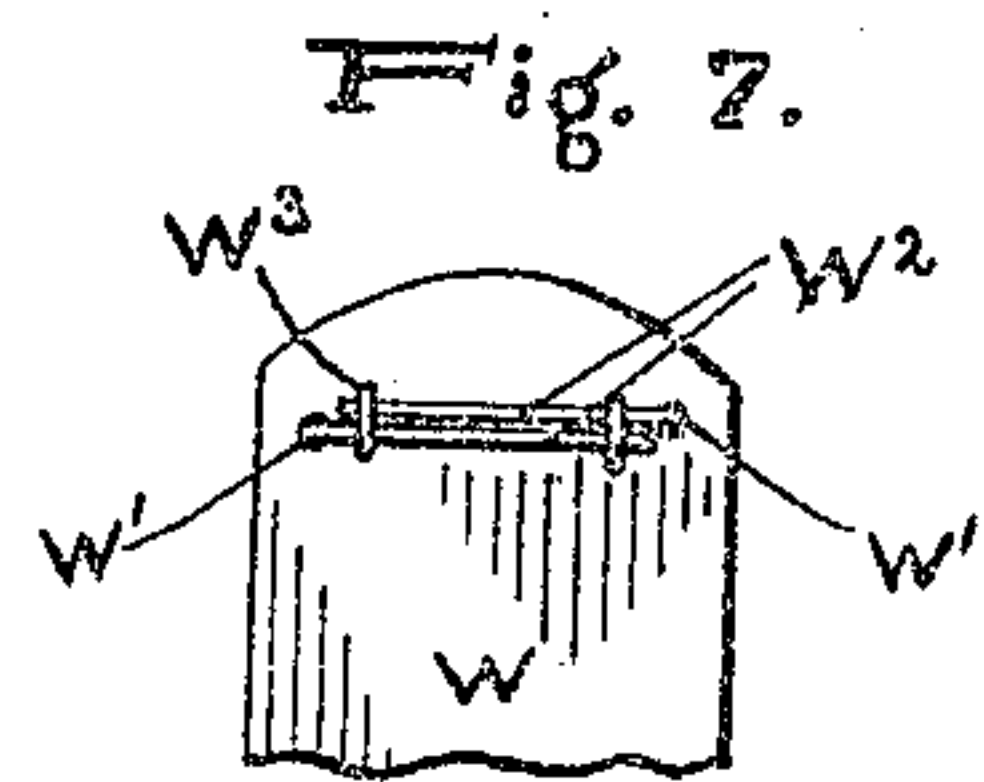
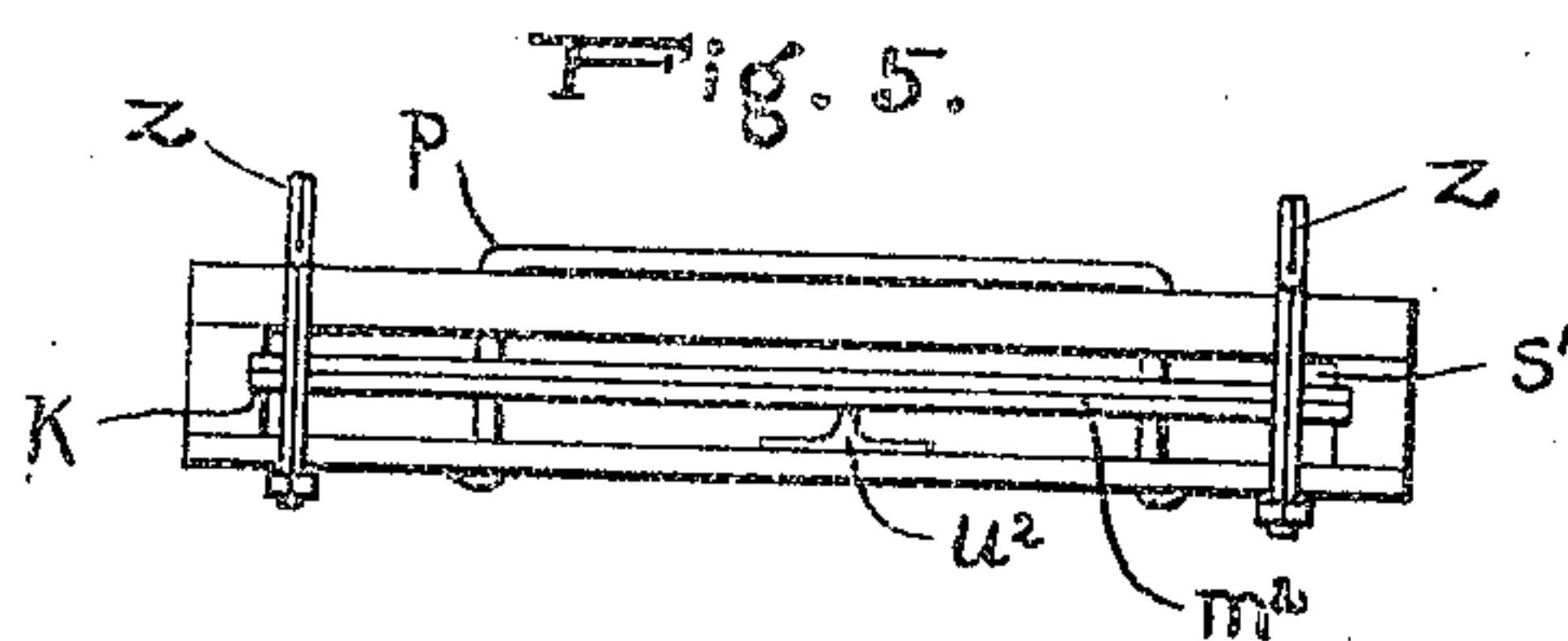
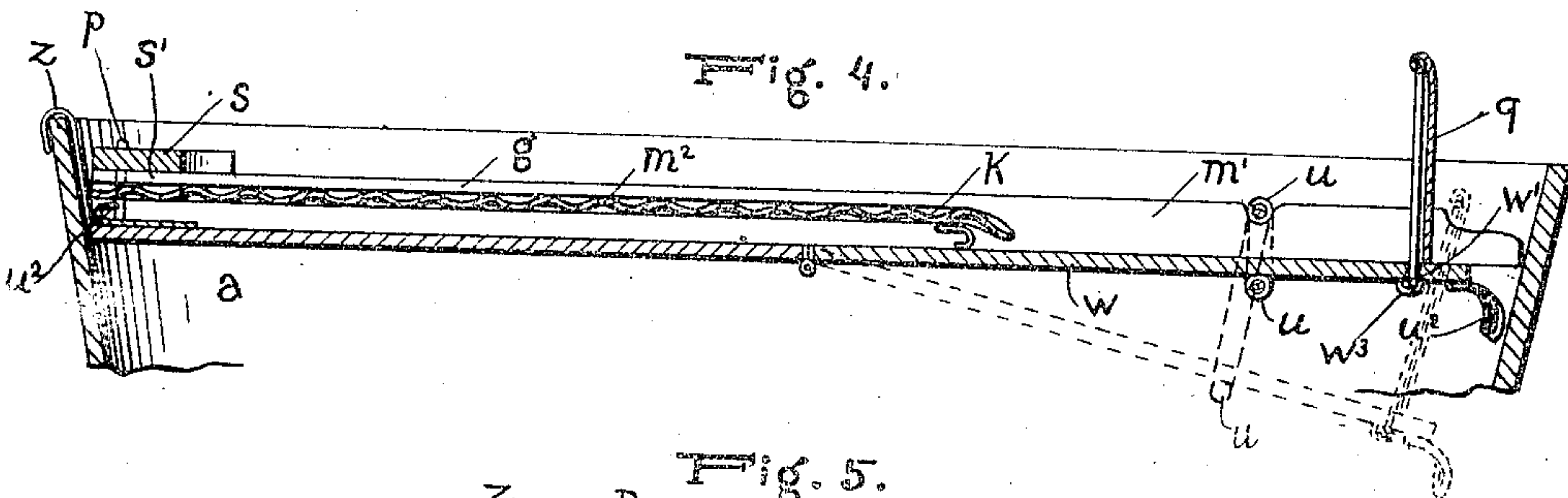
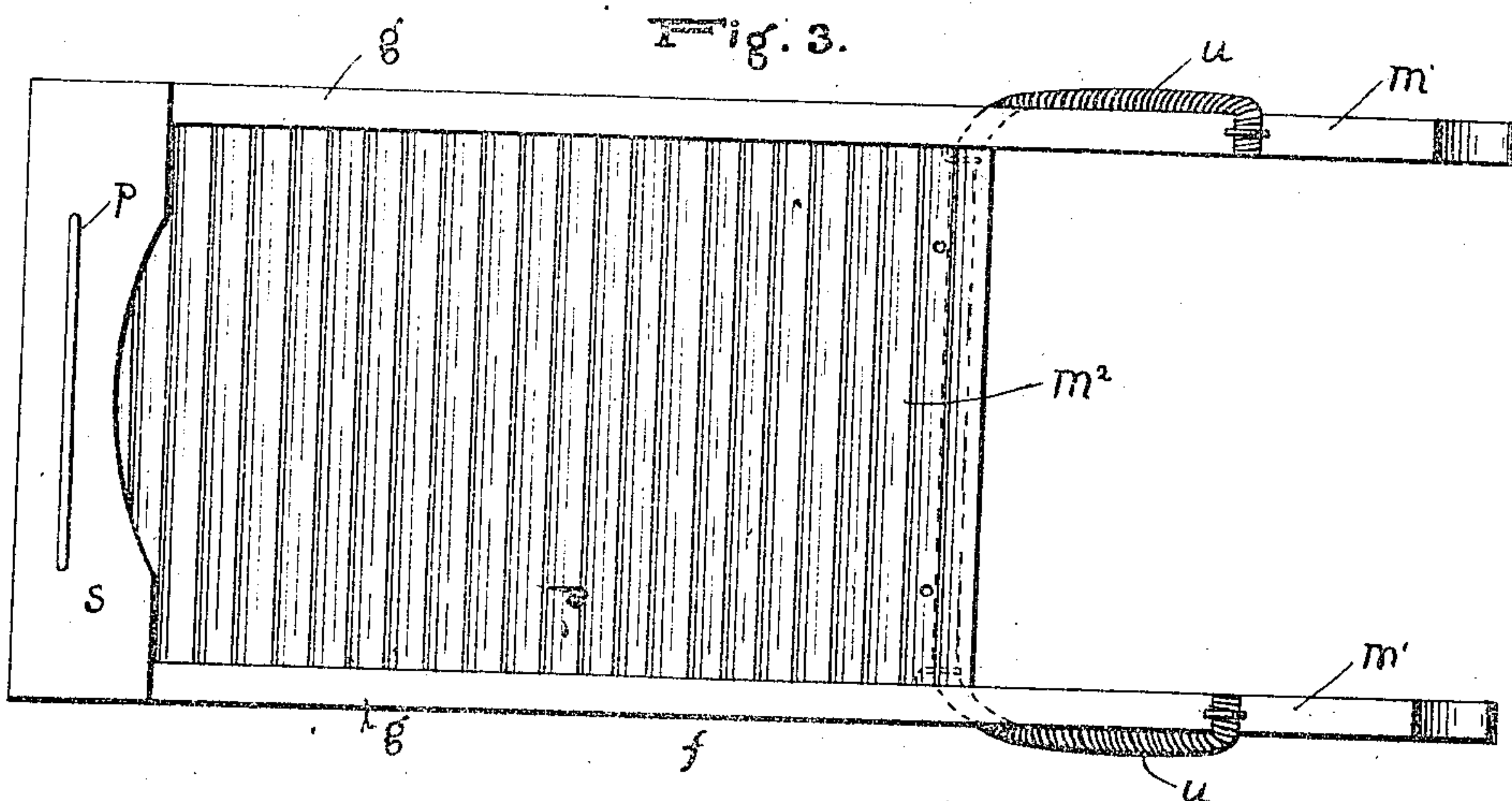
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMILY A. CLARK, OF ALEXANDRIA, NEBRASKA.

## WASHBOARD.

No. 877,048.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 21, 1908.

Application filed November 3, 1906. Serial No. 341,934.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMILY A. CLARK, a citizen of the United States, resident of Alexandria, in the county of Thayer and State of Nebraska, have made a certain new and useful Invention in Washboards; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wash tub having my invention applied thereto, with the hinged board between the legs, in position as used; the wash board being shown in horizontal position; Fig. 2 is a cross section of the tub, showing the wash board therein in inclined position in side view, the hinged board being turned back; Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the washboard with the hinged board turned back; Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of the wash-board with the hinged board in position as used; Fig. 5 is a rear end view of the wash board; Fig. 6 is a fragmentary detail perspective view; and Fig. 7 is a detail fragmentary bottom plan view of the wash board on a smaller scale.

The invention relates to apparatus for washing clothes, and it consists in the novel construction and combinations of parts, as hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the invention, the letter *a*, represents an ordinary wash-tub of round form, which is provided at one side with vertical series of bearings *b*, at different heights. Usually these bearings are made in the form of two hangers *c*, having hooks *d*, adapted to engage the marginal portion of the tub. Each hanger is provided with transverse wire bearings, so that racks are formed, and when the wash-board is placed in position in the tub, the ends of its extensions or legs are engaged with the bearings according to the height at which the board is designed to be used. A lower inclined wire bearing *t* is also provided at each side, having an abutment *b*<sup>2</sup>, at the back, the bearing being used when it is desired to place the lower ends of the wash-board legs in the bottom of the tub, or when the board is to be used as an ordinary wash-board at the usual incline.

The wash-board *e*, is intended to be used in horizontal or approximately horizontal po-

sition, the inclination being determined by the character of the work. The wash board consists of the frame *f*, having side bars *g*, and a rubbing board *m*<sup>2</sup>, held in place by a staple *p*. The head of the wash-board is also provided with hook devices *z*, whereby it is connected to the marginal portion of the tub, opposite to the rack bearings *b*. The hook devices *z*, are designed to be about two or three inches in length in order to allow the head of the wash-board to be placed within the tub, a short distance below the margin of its wall, but may be removable as shown and hooks of different length substituted. The side bars of the wash-board terminate in legs or extensions *m*<sup>1</sup>, and the length of the wash-board is designed to be about equal to the inside diameter of the tub, a few inches below its margin, in order that when placed in said tub in horizontal or approximately horizontal position it will abut at both ends against the wall of the tub, and will, in this way, be held against longitudinal movement. At the same time it will be retained in position by the supports at the head and at the leg extensions. The head bar of the wash-board is straight from side to side, when the wash-board is in position, a segment-shaped interval or passage *n* being provided between the head bars of the wash-board and the inner surface of the tub wall, which serves as a drain passage.

The frame of the wash-board, between its extensions *m*<sup>1</sup>, and at the lower end of the rubbing board, is provided with a smooth depressible board or plate *w*, which is normally held up against said extensions by a spiral spring *u*, but can be readily pressed downward against the action of the spring, when desired to dip the article being washed into the water at the end of the stroke of the operator. This board *w*, may be turned entirely back on its hinges into a position parallel with the wash-board where it is temporarily held by a hook and strap loop connection *u*<sup>2</sup>. This spiral spring is received in grooves of the side bars, so as to be flush with the surface thereof and not interfere or obstruct. A flexible guard *q*, of canvas or other suitable material, having a wire frame, is designed to be hingedly connected to the end of the slide board *w*, at *w*<sup>1</sup>. It may thus move backward and forward to accommodate itself to the position of the wash-board as adjusted. The side wires of the frame of this guard extend through the slide board



near the edges and have lapping branches  $w^2$ , underneath the same, said branches being fastened by staples  $w^3$ , which allow a sliding movement of the branches to accommodate the same to expansion and contraction of the wood of the slide board.

The wash-board is designed to be narrower than ordinary wash-boards, being about ten inches wide, in order to facilitate lateral traction in drawing the article being washed transversely over the rubbing board, and also to increase the tub space at each side of the wash-board. The rubbing surface of the board is however about the same as is usual, inasmuch as this surface extends up to within one and one half inches of the upper or front end of the board, this being the width of the head bar  $\epsilon$ . In this manner the necessity for stooping over the board to reach the rubbing surface is avoided. Every inch closer the rubbing surface is brought to the operator makes a great difference in the labor required.

In the case of these washing appliances, it is designed to lessen the labor of washing as well as to render the operation less wearing. The usual position of a woman bending over a tub in washing is designed to be avoided, as the tub can be raised upon a support, high enough for the operator to move the articles being washed in a horizontal to and fro manner, without bending the back. The weight of the goods on the rubbing board is sufficient for the necessary pressure, and the friction is also increased over that which is normal to an inclined rubbing surface.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A wash board having a rubbing board provided with a depressible smooth surface extension at its lower end.

2. A wash board having a rubbing board provided with a depressible smooth surface extension at its lower end, and means for returning said extension to normal position when depressed.

3. A wash board having a rubbing board provided with a depressible hinged smooth surface extension at its lower end, means for

returning said extension to position when depressed, and means for securing said extension in reversed position when not in use.

4. A wash board having a rubbing board provided with a depressible extension at its lower end, said extension having a guard device at its lower end.

5. A wash board having a rubbing board provided with a depressible extension at its lower end, said extension having an upward projecting adjustable guard device at its lower end.

6. A wash board having a rubbing board provided with a depressible extension at its lower end, said extension having an adjustable guard device at its lower end, including a wire frame having a pivotal engagement with said extension, and having terminal lapping branches having sliding engagement with securing staples.

7. The combination with a wash tub, having rack supports, of a wash board having end legs adapted to fit in such supports, the head-end of the board having supporting hooks projecting beyond the same.

8. The combination with a wash tub, having removable rack supports, of a narrow wash board having a narrow head frame-bar, having removable supporting hooks projecting beyond the same and adapted to fit over the edge of the tub, reduced-end supporting legs adapted to engage steps of said rack supports, and a rubbing board having its rubbing surface extending up to said head frame bar.

9. The combination with a wash-tub having removable rack devices at one side, located closely adjacent and parallel to the side wall of the tub of a wash-board having leg extensions adapted to removably engage steps of said rack devices, and having its head fitting closely against the side wall of the tub, and supporting means for the head end of the wash-board.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

EMILY A. CLARK.

Witnesses:

E. E. OVERMAN,  
REGINA OVERMAN.